present invention to indicate a number of different dates, such as a date range or a recurring period of time. Wildcard characters and date ranges can be used in the variable time-stamp to implement a variable time stamp when a user is not sure of the date for a specific web resource or wishes to specify more than one precise date and time. A disclosed persistent

5   Web server (i) receives URLs containing a time stamp, a relative time-stamp or a variable time-stamp, (ii) retrieves the correct Web page(s) from an archive, and (iii) returns the desired page(s) or links to the client.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-15 and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Bohannon et al. The

10   Examiner initially asserts that Freeman et al. teaches the steps of:

> receiving a request for said electronic document, said request including a variable time-stamp (citing Freeman at col. 3, lines 15-29, receiving a request including a chronological indicator time stamp from a user); and

15   > identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp (citing Freeman at col. 4, lines 43-46).

The Examiner thereafter appears to acknowledge that Freeman does not

20   disclose identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time stamp.

The Examiner further asserts, however, that Bohannon teaches the implementation of versioning and the use of time stamps to identify the different versions of the document (citing Bohannon at col. 5, lines 36-41 indicating "multiple

25   versions...associated time stamps...associated with ones of multiple versions;" col. 5, lines 35-47).

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner argues that the combination of Freeman and Bohannon teaches the use of "time stamps and versioning to manage a history of document creation and update since this will provide the capability to identify the different

30   versions of the documents."

Freeman And Bohannon Do Not Show A Time-Stamp In A *User Document Request*

Freeman et al. is directed to an operating system in which documents are stored in a chronologically ordered "stream." As each document is presented to the operating

system, the document is placed according to a time indicator in the sequence of documents already stored relative to the time indicators of the stored documents. Col. 1, lines 4-10. It is an express object of Freeman et al. to provide "an operating system in which the location and nature of file storage is *transparent to the user*, for example, the storage of the files is

5   handled automatically **and file names are only used if a user chooses to invent such names**." Even when a user does choose to "invent" file names, Freeman et al. does not disclose or suggest how such file names are used to retrieve documents or whether a request for such documents includes the file name and the time indication.

The Examiner referenced col. 3, lines 15-29, and col. 4, lines 43-46 of

10   Freeman. These passages are directed to the creation and storage of user files and do not disclose or suggest a user *request* for a document that includes a variable time-stamp," as required by each of the claims of the present invention. The Examiner also referenced col. 13, lines 20-45, of Freeman, in rejecting some of the dependent claims. This passage discusses Web addresses, but not in connection with a user *request*. Rather, this passage

15   describes the use of document streams to manage information (e.g., placing Web page bookmarks in a stream).

Bohannon et al. is directed to a database management system, and in particular, to techniques for aging versions of data records for deletion purposes to increase memory capacity. While Bohannon assigns time stamps to data records in a database, it is

20   for the purpose of deleting records having multiple versions in response to the time stamp. The time stamping appears to be an internal, transparent process initiated by the Bohannon system upon an update to an existing data record. There is no suggestion that such time stamps are even provided or known to the user and there certainly is no suggestion that such time stamps are employed in a *user request* for a data record to identify a particular version.

25   Person Of Ordinary Skill Would Not Look To Freeman Or Bohannon

As indicated in the Background section of Freeman et al., Freeman et al. expressly **"teaches away"** from conventional operating systems where a "file must be 'named' when created and often a location in which to store the file must be indicated resulting in unneeded overhead." Col. 1, lines 40-44. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the

30   art of the present invention would not look to Freeman et al. for a solution to the problem of

supplementing an address (or file name) so that it differentiates versions of a multiple version document. The present invention, on the other hand, extends conventional file naming or addressing schemes (where an electronic document is identified using a file name or address) to include the *variable time stamp* that differentiates various versions of the document.

5　　　　　Similarly, Bohannon et al. is directed to the non-analogous field of a database management system that employs techniques for *aging* versions of data records for *deletion* purposes to increase memory capacity. The present invention is not interested in deleting any version of a multiple version document, but rather, in maintaining such multiple versions and making them accessible to a user. The present invention provides a convenient mechanism

10　for a user to uniquely identify a particular one of such multiple versions. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art of the present invention would not look to Bohannon et al. for a solution to the problem of supplementing an address (or file name) so that it differentiates versions of a multiple version document.

　　　　　Kisor et al. has been cited by the Examiner for its disclosure of a URL having

15　an associated request header for indicating a time stamp. Citing col. 3, lines 50-59, and col. 7, lines 21-25. The time stamp that is referenced in the passage on col. 3 indicates a date of last modification of a web page, and is used to determine when to refresh a web page. There is no suggestion in Kisor et al. that a request for an electronic document includes a variable time stamp, as required by the present invention.

20　　　　　Thus, Freeman et al., alone, or in combination with Bohannon et al. and/or Kisor et al., does not disclose or suggest that a *request* for an electronic document includes a "variable time stamp, and identifying versions of said electronic document corresponding to said variable time-stamp," as required by each of the independent claims.

　　　　　Dependent Claims 4 and 16 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

25　being unpatentable over various combinations of Freeman et al., Bohannon et al. or Kisor et al. Claims 4 and 16 are dependent on Claims 1 or 13, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Freeman et al., Bohannon et al. or Kisor et al. (alone or in any combination) because of their dependency from amended independent Claims 1 or 13, for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their

30　base claim.

In view of the foregoing, the invention, as claimed in Claims 1 through 25, cannot be said to be either taught or suggested by Freeman et al., Bohannon et al. or Kisor et al. (alone or in any combination). Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 through 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

5   All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1 through 25, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

10   The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 28, 2002

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APPENDIX

Version Marked to Show All Changes

5 IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1, as follows:

The Online Computer Library Center, Inc. ("OCLC"), a nonprofit computer

10 library service and research organization, provides a software tool, referred to as OCLC

PURL ("Persistent Uniform Resource Locator"), for managing Internet addresses and aliases

for general Internet resources. A Persistent Uniform Resource Locator provides flexible

naming and name resolution services for Internet resources to ensure reliable, long-term

access to Internet resources with minimal maintenance. Generally, OCLC PURL assists

15 Internet users in locating Web resources. As previously indicated, the Internet is constantly

expanding and changing. Once a Uniform Resource Locator [(URL)] changes, all previous

references to that URL become invalid, thereby preventing users from accessing the Internet

resource. The management of these changes often becomes burdensome.

20 Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 22, as follows:

Generally, a method and apparatus are disclosed for providing persistent

access to Web resources. According to an aspect of the invention, the Uniform Resource

Locators [("URLs")] that identify Web resources are optionally augmented to include a time

25 stamp. The time stamp can be specified in the Uniform Resource Locator [("URL")] in any

suitable format. In addition, variable time stamps can be utilized in accordance with the

present invention to indicate a number of different dates, such as a date range or a recurring

period of time.[.] According to one aspect of the invention, wildcard characters and date

ranges can be used in the variable time-stamp to implement a variable time stamp when a

30 user is not sure of the date for a specific web resource or wishes to specify more than one

precise date and time. The present invention allows the Web to be an organized and reliable

reference source, much like paper-based media.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3, as follows:

FIG. 1 illustrates a Web browser 100 in accordance with the present invention, that accesses information from one or more persistent Web servers 140, 150 over

5 the Internet or World Wide Web [("Web")] environment 130. The present invention provides persistent access to Web resources or electronic documents, including textual, audio, video or animation documents. According to a feature of the present invention, the Uniform Resource Locators [("URLs")] that identify Web resources are augmented to include a time stamp. The Web browser 100 and persistent Web servers 140, 150

10 accommodate the additional time stamp parameter and allow a user to refer to any Web address with a precise target date. For example, the URL "http://cnn.com?time=2+2+1997" specifies the Web contents of the CNN home page on February 2, 1997. In this manner, the Web can be an organized and reliable reference source, much like paper-based media.

15 <u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein said address is a Uniform Resource Locator [("URL")].

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said Uniform Resource

20 Locator [("URL")] has an associated request header for indicating said variable time stamp.

15. (Amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein said address is a Uniform Resource Locator [("URL")].

16. (Amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein said Uniform

25 Resource Locator [("URL")] has an associated request header for indicating said variable time stamp.